

LINCOLNVILLE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 24, 2022

6:00 PM @ Camden Town Office

A. Joint Meeting with Camden Select Board - East & West Dams of Megunticook Lake

See Town of Camden Select Board Workshop Agenda below.



**Towns of Camden & Lincolnville
Select Board Workshop
January 24, 2022 – 5:30 PM
French Conference Room**

Select Board meetings are broadcast live on Spectrum Cable TV channel 1303
and web streamed at: www.youtube.com/TownofCamdenMaine

For those wishing to participate remotely, please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89870908295>

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900
6833 or +1 253 215 8782 Webinar ID: 898 7090 8295

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ksx6lGzR5>

Agenda

1. Recent and Planned Capital Improvements to East & West Dams
2. Megunticook Watershed Restoration
3. Status of Megunticook Dam Committee & Dam Advisory Committee Policy
4. Operation Guidelines/Water levels
5. Future decisions regarding dams & cost sharing

B. Adjourn



TOWN OF LINCOLNVILLE
493 HOPE ROAD
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TEL: 207-763-3555 FAX: 207-763-4545
www.town.lincolnvill.me.us

January 21, 2022

To: Board of Selectmen

From: David Kinney, Town Administrator

RE: Joint Meeting with Camden Select Board – East & West Dams of Megunticook Lake

For a little background and a brief abbreviated history regarding the East & West Dams (much more is available, see bulleted points below). Please note that the Town of Camden owns more dam structures downstream of the Megunticook Lake and is undertaking a larger watershed restoration effort. More information regarding their efforts can be found at:

https://www.camdenmaine.gov/news_detail_T50_R74.php

- At a Town Meeting held on March 12, 1984 the voters of the Town of Camden approved an article accepting the ownership of the “East” and “West” dams of Megunticook Lake from the Megunticook Lake Association along with a \$20,000 donation from the association, see warrant articles 28- 31 attached. The funds donated to the Town of Camden were to be invested and only the income derived from the investment of these funds could be used for repairs. Note that the East and West Dams impound the waters of Megunticook Lake. Both dams are located in the Town of Camden and are near one another (150 feet +/-).
- At the March 17, 1984 Town Meeting the voters of the Town of Lincolnville approved an article to raise and appropriate the sum of \$700 for maintenance and repairs to the Megunticook Lake Dam located in the town of Camden. And periodically since this time the Town of Lincolnville has raised and appropriated funds for this purpose. In late March and April of 1984 the Lincolnville Board of Selectmen first appointed individuals from Lincolnville to serve on the “Megunticook Lake Dam Group” and/or the “Megunticook Dam Committee”
- On April 22, 1984 the Camden Board of Selectmen appointed three Camden representatives and “three members from Lincolnville for the Megunticook Lake Dam Policy Committee.”
- On April 22, 1984 the Camden Board of Selectmen appointed the same three Camden representatives to a Megunticook Lake Dam Trust Fund Committee. Although it is not clear from what I’ve been able to find thus far I presume the purpose of the committee was to assist/oversee the investment of the \$20,000 donation.
- In the 1984 Lincolnville Town Report, under the Selectmen’s Report is written “We have entered into an agreement with the Town of Camden concerning the Megunticook

Watershed. We are part of a six person committee that will be involved in the decision-making process for the present and future needs of the operation. Water levels are a major concern facing the Megunticook Watershed Association. A staff gauge has been put on into the Lake to monitor levels. Ken Bailey is responsible for the readings.” We have not located the agreement referenced.

- The annual report of the Town of Camden for 1984 includes a report from the Megunticook Dam Advisory Committee, see attached.
- On August 9, 1999 the Lincolnville Board of Selectmen approved a “Megunticook Dams Advisory Committee Policy”, see attached. The policy included within paragraph e. the provision that “The cost of repairing the lake dams will be shared between Camden (2/3) and Lincolnville (1/3).” It appears that some sort of dam policy prior to the 1999 version existed at least in Camden as the attached policy includes a reference at the bottom of approved by vote of Board of Selectmen on November 15, 1993. The policy was amended by the Camden Board on August 16, 1999. I am unaware of any update to this policy since that time.
- As I understand it, previous Lincolnville Boards of Selectmen saw value in contributing to the maintenance and upkeep of the dams for a voice regarding water levels, see enclosed Operation Guidelines for Dams and Water Levels (most current?), and the fact that the impoundment of the water created recreational opportunities and for flood control purposes.
- Not certain of the date but at some point prior to 2003 the Town of Lincolnville started setting funds aside for the dam expenses. The Town routinely raised and appropriated funds to this account and carried the balances forward from year to year until LD1 (the tax cap measure) was put in place. As the Town had funds assigned for this purpose and not great annual expense at times various Boards of Selectmen have decided not to seek additional funds for this purpose and expended funds from this account as necessary. During my time here the Town of Lincolnville had routinely, when invoiced by Camden, paid 1/3 of the operating and maintenance costs of the east and west dams. Lincolnville currently has approximately \$41,300 in this account. The goal established long ago (prior to 2003) was to have a \$30,000 in this fund.
- To the best of my knowledge the Megunticook Dam Committee hasn’t met since January 2019.
- In February of 2019 David Bolstridge, Camden’s Wastewater Superintendent and Dam Agent made a presentation to the Lincolnville Board of Selectmen concerning the status of the dams.
- On June 8, 2019, Selectman Barrows, at the direction of the Lincolnville Board of Selectmen, wrote a letter to the Town of Camden, see attached, requesting that the two communities “work to re-examine: the roles and responsibilities of the Town of Camden’s Megunticook Dams Advisory Committee, how future dam work plans are established and approved, the timing of budget requests, the method and timing of billing, operations v. repairs/maintenance v. capital expenditures, cost sharing, resolution of differences, etc.” Also enclosed is the August 19, 2019 response from Audra Caler, Camden’s Town Manager and Selectmen Barrows September 23, 2019 follow-up. The Barrows’ letters summarize the Lincolnville Board’s concerns.
- The last contribution that the Town of Lincolnville made regarding the maintenance of the dams was made in April of 2019.

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote to accept a gift from the Megunticook Lake Association of the three Megunticook Lake outlet dam structures with necessary land and easements appurtenant thereto and related rights including flowage rights and privileges granted to the Camden Water Power Co. by the Knox Woolen Co. by deed dated June 26, 1909 and recorded in Knox Registry of Deeds, Book 146, Page 462 and any other rights or privileges appurtenant to said dam structures by law, deed, or otherwise, said dam structures, necessary land and easements and rights and privileges appurtenant thereto being more particular described in a proposed deed of conveyance from Megunticook Lake Association for the purposes of preserving and enhancing public outdoor recreation facilities owned by the Town and located in the vicinity of Megunticook Lake, including without limitation currently existing Town owned public outdoor recreation facilities at the Barrett's Cove swimming area, such facilities at the Route 52 launching ramp, and such facilities at the picnic and scenic park areas at Lands End on Fernald's Neck, and such facilities at the Bog Bridge boat landing facility. A copy of the proposed deed of conveyance from Megunticook Lake Association is available at the Town Office for public inspection.

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to accept from Megunticook Lake Association as a gift a trust fund in the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00), the principal of which said trust fund on the date of gift to the Town shall be kept perpetually invested and the income only from that trust fund shall be used for the operation, maintenance, repair and reconstruction of the three outlet dam structures at Megunticook Lake together with all such land, easements and related rights and privileges as set forth in the immediately preceding Article.

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint three citizens of the Town of Camden, at least one of whom shall be a citizen of the Town of Camden recommended by the Megunticook Lake Association, and at least one of whom shall be a Selectman as of the date of appointment, for a three-year term, as trustees of the Megunticook Dams Maintenance Trust Fund, the purpose of said trust being to administer the trust fund described in the immediately preceding Article and such other sums of money as may be dedicated for the maintenance and repair of the Megunticook dams and structures and other related facilities by subsequent gift or otherwise; and said trustees shall also advise the Selectmen concerning policies for those dams.

ARTICLE 31. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 for maintenance, repair and reconstruction of the Megunticook Lake Dams.

ARTICLE 32. Shall the Town of Camden enact an ordinance entitled "Ordinance Regulating the Business of Hawking and Peddling." Copies of the ordinance are on file at the Town Office and available for public inspection.

ARTICLE 33. Shall the Town of Camden enact an ordinance entitled, "Ordinance Regulating Flea Markets and Other Similar Activity." Copies of the ordinance are on file at the Town Office and available for public inspection.

ARTICLE 34. Shall the Town of Camden enact an ordinance entitled, "Ordinance Concerning Restraint of Dogs in Public Places"; that ordinance is an amendment of the dog ordinance which was accepted at the annual Town Meeting on March 13, 1972. Copies of the ordinance are on file at the Town Office and available for public inspection.

ARTICLE 35. Shall the following proposed amendments be enacted in the Town of Camden Zoning Ordinances; said amendments being in the following provisions of that Zoning Ordinance:

Section III, Article 14;
Section IV, Article 2(c);
Section IV, Article 7(d);
Section V, Definitions: definitions of building height, camping ground, code enforcement officer, community facility, cottage, customary home occupation, dwelling, dwelling unit, ground coverage, hotel, lot, special exception, nursing home, multi-family dwellings or multiple family dwellings, and shoreline.
Copies of the proposed amendments are on file at the Town

q. Personnel Board By Assessment	1,000.00
r. Coastal Workshop By Assessment	500.00
s. Snow Bowl Matching Funds By Assessment	20,000.00
t. Tennis Court Repair By Assessment	7,000.00
u. Boat Launching Ramp By Assessment	20,000.00
v. New Hope for Women By Assessment	100.00
w. Recreation Committee By Assessment	500.00
x. Remodeling Building Next To Fire Station By Assessment	10,000.00

ARTICLE 19. It was moved, seconded and voted to set December 1st as the due date for taxes and to fix the rate of interest on unpaid taxes as of December 1st at 15 per cent. The Board of Selectmen recommend charging 15 per cent interest to commence December 1st.

ARTICLE 20. It was moved, seconded and voted to raise and appropriate the sum of 10,000.00 to be set up in an Escrow Account for repairs to the Opera House.

ARTICLE 21. It was moved, seconded and voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 for the construction of storm drains and sewer on Harden Avenue and Megunticook Street. \$20,000.00 to be appropriated from Surplus and \$20,000.00 to be raised.

ARTICLE 22. It was moved, seconded and voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 for preliminary engineering for Washington Street sewer and pump station.

ARTICLE 23. It was moved, seconded and voted not to raise the sum of \$300.00 for the Sri Lanka Sister City Program.

ARTICLE 24. It was moved, seconded and voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 for the construction of approximately 150' of 8" sewer line on Highland Avenue.

ARTICLE 25. It was moved, seconded and voted to accept Cove Road as a Public Roadway. Said Public Roadway varies in width from 50' to 74' and is approximately 900' in length.

ARTICLE 26. It was moved, seconded and voted to appropriate from fees the sum of \$520.75 for the Shellfish Conservation Commission.

ARTICLE 27. It was moved, seconded and voted to enact a Shellfish Conservation Ordinance for a period of three (3) years from the effective date of April 1, 1984. A copy of the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance is on file at the Town Office and is available for public inspection.

ARTICLE 28. After given a two-thirds majority vote to speak, Mr. Sam Collins, President of the Megunticook Lake Association explained the importance of the Town's acquiring the dams by gift for preserving the lake and enhancing the public outdoor recreation facilities. Town Attorney, Terry Calderwood also spoke on accepting the three dam structures and the importance of having a Dam committee and their recommendations. After some further discussion, it was moved, seconded and voted to accept a gift from the Megunticook Lake

LANDEN TOWN MEETING MARCH 1984 MINUTES

Association of the three Megunticook Lake outlet dam structures with necessary land and easements appurtenant thereto and relates rights including flowage rights and privileges granted to the Camden Water Power Co. by the Knox Woolen Co. by the Knox Woolen Co. by deed dated June 26, 1909 and recorded in Knox Registry of Deeds, Book 146, Page 462 and any other rights or privileges appurtenant to said dam structures by law, deed, or otherwise, said dam structures, necessary land and easements and rights and privileges appurtenant thereto being more particularly described in a proposed deed of conveyance from Megunticook Lake Association for the purposes of preserving and enhancing public outdoor recreation facilities at the Barrett's Cove Swimming Area, such facilities at the Route 52 launching ramp, and such facilities at the picnic and scenic park areas at Lands End on Fernald's Neck, and such facilities at the Bog Bridge boat landing facility.

ARTICLE 29. After some discussion, it was moved and seconded to amend the sum of fifteen thousand (15,000.00) to read twenty thousand (20,000.00). It was then moved, seconded and voted to accept from Megunticook Lake Association as a gift a trust fund in the sum of 20,000.00, the principal of which said trust fund on the date of gift to the Town shall be kept perpetually invested and the income only from that trust fund shall be used for the operation, maintenance, repair and reconstruction of the three dam structures at Megunticook Lake together with all such land, easements and related rights and privileges as set forth in the immediately preceding Article.

ARTICLE 30. After some discussion, it was moved, seconded and voted to authorize the Selectmen to appoint three citizens of the Town of Camden, at least one of whom shall be a citizen of the Town of Camden recommended by the Megunticook Lake Association, and at least one of whom shall be a Selectmen as of the date of appointment, for a three-year term, as trustees of the Megunticook Dams Maintenance Trust Fund, the purpose of said trust being to administer the Trust Fund described in the immediately preceding Article and such other sums of money as may be dedicated for the maintenance and repair of the Megunticook dams and structures and other related facilities by subsequent gift or otherwise; and said trustees shall also advise the Selectmen concerning policies for those dams.

ARTICLE 31. It was moved, seconded and voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 for maintenance, repair and reconstruction of the Megunticook Lake Dams.

ARTICLE 32. Town Attorney, Terry Calderwood spoke on the reasons why we have a "Hawking and Peddling" ordinance; protecting the citizens of Camden from any "high pressure sales" and going door to door in doing such selling. There was some further discussion and a vote was taken on whether to raise the current fee stated in the ordinance from \$50.00 to \$300.00 per license. This would be an annual fee, but it was not declared passed. It was then moved, seconded and voted to enact an ordinance entitled "Ordinance Regulating Business of Hawking and Peddling." Copies are available at the Town Office.

ARTICLE 33. It was moved, seconded and voted to enact an ordinance entitled "Ordinance Regulating Flea Markets and other Similar Activity." Copies of the ordinance are on file and available at the Town Office for public inspection.

ARTICLE 34. It was moved and seconded to amend this Article to read "Ordinance Concerning Restraint of Dogs in Public Places with the acceptation of Seeing Eye Dogs". There was some discussion concerning dogs not allowed on the boat landings. It was moved, seconded, and voted to amend the Article to allow dogs on both boat landings in Camden. It was then moved, seconded and voted to accept this Article as amended.

From the 1984
Town Report

F CAMDEN

ANNUAL REPORT, TOWN OF CAMDEN

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respectfully submitted
THOMAS F. MARX
rintendent of Schools

SSION REPORT

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Molyneaux Road, the

The Commission was instrumental in the removal of an underground gas tank from property formerly belonging to the old fish hatchery on Molyneaux Road. This was done to eliminate the danger of ground water pollution.

Two high school students were chosen and financed by the Commission to attend a summer session at Bryant Pont Conservation Camp.

Respectfully,
EMILY DISSTON
Secretary

MEGONICOOK DAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The above-named committee was selected early in 1984. That committee consists of six people, with equal representation from the towns of Camden and Lincolnville. The purpose of the committee is to advise and assist the Camden Board of Selectmen in the following:

- a. Maintaining a desirable level of water in the watershed;
- b. Dam inspection and planning for repairs and renovations;
- c. Handle requests and complaints from interested parties. Follow up with comments and advice to the appropriate officials;
- d. Other matters such as insurance, public safety, etc.

On May 24, 1984, the committee was formed. Several meetings have been held throughout the year on the above concerns.

The highlights of the season include a very wet spring with unusually high water levels and a dry fall which has slowed the recovery of levels somewhat.

Summer water levels seemed quite satisfactory to most lake users.

This committee may be contacted through any of the members listed.

Respectfully submitted,
Camden members:
HARRY MANK, Chairman, Selectman
BRADLEE HODSON
MARTHA MARTENS
Lincolnville members:
RICHARD OSGOOD, Selectman
RICHARD DAVIDSON
THOMAS D. DICKENS, Vice Chairman

TOWN OF CAMDEN

MEGUNTICOOK DAMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE POLICY

There is hereby created the Megunticook Dams Advisory Committee which shall consist of six voting members with equal representation from the Towns of Camden and Lincolnton, serving staggered terms of three years. The purpose of the Committee is to advise and assist the Camden Selectmen in the following:

- a. To maintain a desirable level of water in Megunticook Lake and Norton's Pond, and to develop and implement guidelines acceptable to the Camden Selectmen for the day-to-day and emergency operation of the dams;
- b. Inspect, not less than annually, the Megunticook Lake Dams and the Montgomery Dam at Megunticook Falls at the head of Camden Harbor, and make recommendations concerning budget appropriations for repairs, and oversee the conduct of repairs;
- c. To work cooperatively with all other dam owners on the River concerning the regulation of water flows, the establishment of water levels, and the reduction of flows when dam repairs are necessary;
- d. To advise the Selectmen concerning issues of insurances, public safety and other matters relating to the dams; and
- e. To serve as Trustees of the Megunticook Lake Dam Trust Fund accepted by the Town of Camden in 1984 with the principal sum of \$20,000 with interest only being applied to the two outlet dams at Megunticook Lake for repairs. The cost of repairing the lake dams will be shared between Camden (2/3) and Lincolnton (1/3). Repair of the Montgomery Dam shall be borne by the Town of Camden.

Approved by vote of Board of Selectmen on November 15, 1993.
Amended by vote of Board of Selectmen on August 16, 1999.

L. MONTGOMERY BOS 8/16/99 APPROVED

**Operation Guidelines
For Dams and Water Levels on
Megunticook Lake and Megunticook River**

1. The Camden Town Manager shall annually appoint a Dam Control Agent of his/her choosing to regulate the dam openings and lake water levels in line with the guidelines herein stated, in conjunction with the chairman of the Dam Advisory Committee.
2. The gate on the East Dam to be used for normal control of the level of the water in the lake. The gate on the West Dam to remain closed, with the exception of operational testing, or if needed to reach water level goals in special circumstances.
3. The gate opening on the East Dam should not be less than 1 ½ inches. This guarantees that at least the legal minimum flow of water will be released through the opening for downstream use.
4. **WINTER OPERATION:** (October 1 to Ice-Out) Starting October 1, it is desirable to lower the lake to a level of 20-25 inches below the spillway height. This should be accomplished by adjusting the gate opening so that the lake will be lowered gradually. Adverse weather conditions and existing snow pack should be taken into consideration when gate opening is adjusted.
5. **SPRING OPERATION:** (Ice-Out to July 4) Maintain an adequate gate opening that will keep the water near spillway level, or up to a maximum of 6 inches of water going over the spillway. Lower levels may be reached in anticipation of spring runoff or heavy rains. The goal is to maintain as stable a water level as possible for ecological purposes. Many fish and waterfowl, including loons, are nesting and rearing their young during this time period.
6. **SUMMER OPERATION:** (July 5 to October 1) A level as near to the spillway height as possible is desirable. After Labor Day, in anticipation of the hurricane season, begin to gradually bring the pond level to 20-25 inches below the spillway.
7. When the Camden Police Department dispatcher (236-3030) receives a call on **any** dam adjustment, a call shall be made immediately to the Dam Control Agent.
8. If the Dam Control Agent cannot be reached, the following shall be called until contact is made; **FIRST:** Wastewater Superintendent Ross Parker; **SECOND:** Fire Chief Chris Farley; **THIRD:** Camden Parks and Recreation Maintenance Foreman William Fitzcharles; **FOURTH:** Camden Town Manager

9. **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:** Adjustments to the dam gates and water levels which are not covered in the foregoing guidelines may be necessary in emergency or extreme situations as determined by the Dam Control Agent, or if unavailable the Wastewater Superintendent, Fire Chief Camden or the Town Manager. Unless the Dam Control Agent determines that there are exigent circumstances, the dam operator shall consult with either the Camden Town Manager or the Camden Fire Chief prior to making a determination that an emergency or extreme situation exists. The Dam Control Agent, or if unavailable, any Camden town employee appointed by the town manager, is hereby granted authority to adjust gate openings if an emergency situation exists. If an emergency is declared, a call must be placed immediately to Knox County Dispatch (236-3030 or 911) telling them to implement the **EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**. A meeting of the full Dam Advisory Committee shall be held as soon thereafter if further action is necessary following any emergency adjustments.

10. **SPECIAL REQUESTS:** Requests to regulate the flow of water from private enterprise to be reviewed by the Dam Control Agent and the Camden Town Manager. If the request will have a major impact, or be of a long duration, it shall be reviewed by the full committee, with recommendation(s) made to the Camden Select Board, who will make the final decision.

Proposed revisions: August 10, 2009



TOWN OF LINCOLNVILLE
493 HOPE ROAD
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TEL: 207-763-3555 FAX: 207-763-4545
www.town.lincolnvill.me.us

June 8, 2019

Marc Ratner and Taylor Benzie, Select Board Liaisons to Megunticook Dams Committee
Town of Camden
PO Box 1207
Camden, ME 04843

RE: East & West Dams of Megunticook Lake

Dear Marc & Taylor:

I write at the request of and at the direction of the Lincolnville Board of Selectmen. I've addressed this letter to the two of you as you are listed on the Town of Camden's web site as the Select Board Liaisons to the Megunticook Dams Committee. If this letter is more appropriately addressed to another individual or the full Camden Select Board please forward this letter to them.

As we understand it at some point in the coming years the Town of Camden acting through its Select Board may be planning to undertake substantial reconstruction or modification of either or both of the East and West dams of Megunticook Lake. Further, we understand that the Town of Camden may plan to borrow the funds for these projects, pay back the borrowed funds over a yet to be determined period and that the Town of Camden may be seeking to ask the Town of Lincolnville to pay 1/3 of the cost of this loan, on terms to be determined.

In the past, based on a decades old policy, the cost of routine upkeep and repair of these dams has been shared by the Towns of Camden (2/3) and Lincolnville (1/3). The Town of Lincolnville has been able to pay its share of these costs via an annual appropriation approved by the voters at town meeting. As you know without voter approval a Board of Selectmen does not have the authority to bind the Town to a certain payments over a multi-year term. Given this fact we cannot assure the Town of Camden that future unknown costs for dam reconstruction or enhancement can or will be paid for by the Town of Lincolnville.

In light of what is being contemplated by the Town of Camden, the Lincolnville Board of Selectmen believes that it is the appropriate time for our communities to work together to re-examine: the roles and responsibilities of the Town of Camden's Megunticook Dams Advisory Committee, how future dam work plans are established and approved, the timing of budget requests, the method and timing of billing, operations v. repairs/maintenance v. capital expenditures, cost sharing, resolution of differences, etc.

The Lincolnville Board recognizes that this is a busy time of year but as we wrap up Town Meeting season we'd like to commence with a process to address our concerns. I look forward to hearing from you regarding our request.

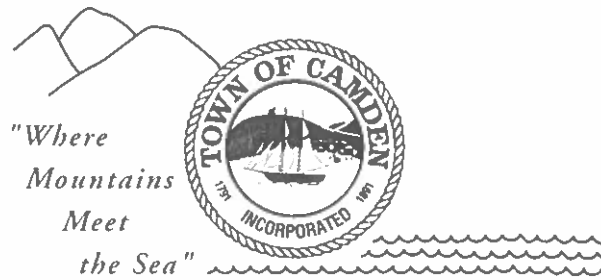
Sincerely,
On Behalf of the Lincolnville Board of Selectmen

David Barrows
Selectman

cc: Audra Caler-Bell, Camden Town Manager

Office of:

Town Manager
Tax Assessor
Tax Collector
Town Clerk
Treasurer
Code Officer
Finance Director
Harbor Clerk



Town Office

P.O. Box 1207
29 Elm Street
Camden, Maine 04843
Phone (207)236-3353
Fax (207)236-7956
<http://www.camdenmaine.gov>

RECEIVED

AUG 26 2019

August 19th, 2019

David Barrows
Town of Lincolnville
493 Hope RD
Lincolnville, ME 04849

RE: East & West Dams of Megunticook Lake

Dave David:

This letter is in response to your correspondence with the Town of Camden dated 6/8/2019. The Town of Camden welcomes the opportunity to work with Lincolnville to re-examine the role of the Megunticook Dams Advisory Committee and discuss how we can work together to better plan for the significant capital investment these dams will require in the upcoming years as they reach the end of their useable life.

The ageing of the two lake dams, and costs associated with keeping them structurally sound, has prompted Camden to try and look more critically at how they currently function. Both dams were built for a different purpose than they now serve. Mandatory inspections consistently turn up issues that are caused by past repairs that, while creative, were not up to code and likely would have been dealt with in a more rigorous manner had this work been performed by today's standards.

The goal of looking at fish passage is intended to ultimately be a benefit and not a liability or added cost to taxpayers. If we properly evaluate and plan for how we can best redevelop our dams in a manner that both protects our communities from flood risks and restores the ecosystem along the Megunticook River, we may be able to get significant amounts of grant funding to update and improve this infrastructure, which is already at a point where it needs significant investment. However, as things stand now, the town of Camden will be bearing the costs alone (along with whatever Lincolnville contributes) for only repairing these dams as they are currently configured and presently function. There is no funding out there to help towns repair old dams unless these repairs result in a significant environmental improvement.

Camden has no intention of passing along the cost of any fish passage project to the Town of Lincolnville. The current needs of the west dam have nothing to do with fish passage. Unfortunately, the repairs on the West dam are emergency repairs. The timing is problematic in that the Town has not had the opportunity to better understand what our options may be, beyond a status quo repair, for repairing and modifying this dam so it more adequately serves its intended purpose and improves the health of the watershed.

I would suggest that in order to start a conversation on how our Towns can work together on planning for future repairs to the lake dams we schedule a meeting with a representative or representatives from each Board along with David Kinney and I.

Sincerely,

On Behalf of the Camden Select Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Audra Caler-Bell", written over a horizontal line.

Audra Caler-Bell
Camden Town Manager



TOWN OF LINCOLNVILLE
493 HOPE ROAD
LINCOLNVILLE, MAINE 04849
TEL: 207-763-3555 FAX: 207-763-4545
www.town.lincolnvill.me.us

September 23, 2019

Audra Caler-Bell
Town of Camden
PO Box 1207
Camden, ME 04843

RE: East & West Dams of Megunticook Lake

Dear Audra:

Thank you for your letter of August 19, 2019 regarding the Megunticook Lake dams. The Lincolnville Board of Selectmen appreciates the response and look forward to working with the Camden Select Board in revisiting the Megunticook Dams Advisory Committee policy.

While we understand the Town of Camden's concern for the projects immediately at hand (fish passage, etc.) the Lincolnville Board is more concerned with the long term policy view. In other words, at this moment it is not so much what is to be done but rather how the work plan is established, approved, funded and accomplished.

As this is as a policy setting matter we see this as a Select Board level discussion that the entire membership of Lincolnville Board of Selectmen desires to be involved in, at least to start off. After the overarching policy direction is established by our Boards, the details of the arrangements could then be fleshed out by a smaller group and then returned to our respective Boards for consideration. Towards this end, the Lincolnville Board is willing to attend a meeting of the Camden Select Board to review past practices, examine the current policy and establish a framework for an arrangement moving forward.

We recognize that the Camden Select Board may wish to delegate this policy setting to one or more Camden Select Board members. If that is the case, the Lincolnville Board would request that the delegated Camden Select Board member(s) attend a meeting of the Lincolnville Board of Selectmen at the Lincolnville Town Office so that the discussion can be openly available to the public.

Our preference would be to have a policy in place prior to the commencement of the FY 21 budget review. We believe that with some effort this is doable. We look forward to hearing from you regarding the preference of the Camden Select Board to a meeting of our full Boards in Camden or a delegation attending a meeting of the Lincolnville Board of Selectmen in Lincolnville.

Sincerely,
On Behalf of the Lincolnville Board of Selectmen

David Barrows
Selectman